A625-Field Historian Course
ELO: Discuss the Purpose and Use of Military History

Dead Guy Quote: *"to be a successful soldier, you must know history"* ***Gen G. S. Patton***

- The study of ***Military History*** provides an understanding of the interplay of forces that have shaped the present.

-AND-

- Provides the means of viewing current problems against the long perspective of how men have handled similar problems in the past.

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The readings say: Military History provides a foundation for both ***problem solving*** and ***career achievement***.

Three techniques to producing a written product -

- gathering data (sourcing)
- criticizing or evaluating the data (historical science)
- presenting the material in a readable form

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The Utility of History- "It, (History) provides us with the opportunity to profit by the stumbles and tumbles of our forerunners" **Sir Basil Liddell Hart**

Army Official Definition- Military History is an objective, accurate, descriptive, and interpretive record of all activities of Armed Forces in peace and war.

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The three categories of Military History

1. **Operational History**
2. **Administrative and Technical History**
3. **The Armed Forces and Society**

The Combat Studies Institute (CSI) of the Command and General Staff College

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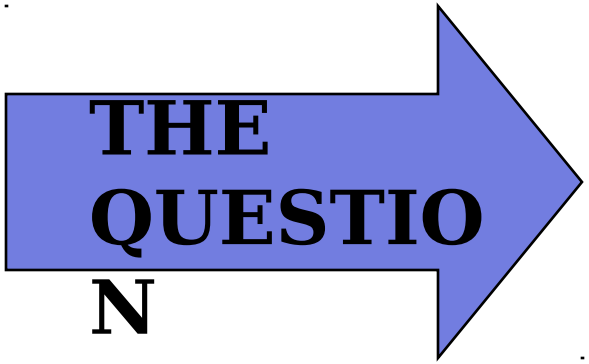
FORMULATE THE QUESTIONS TO YOUR RESEARCH



- **Who was involved?**
- **What happened?**
- **When did it happen?**
- **Where did it happen?**
- **How did the action develop?**
- **Why did things progress as they did?**
- **What was the significance of the**

THE CAMPAIGN ANALYSIS

- Evaluation of the strategic situation
- Review of the tactical setting
- List of affecting factors (weather, terrain, unit strength)
- Synopsis of the conduct of events
- Historical lessons provided by event
- Assessment to the significance of the event

The Pitfalls-

- The most frequent error in the abuse of history is to take historical examples out of context.
- Solutions to problems are not to be viewed as interchangeable parts.
- History cannot be linked to prove doctrine and vice versa. In other words, don't insist on making the connection between the two.

THE BOTTOM LINE

- ***Sound research is fundamental to good research***
- ***Questions must be put to the evidence***

  -do not prejudge the evidence

  -conclusion should follow, not proceed evidence

- ***Good Writing is Paramount***

  -What good comes out of a poorly written work that has no appeal to the intended audience?